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FROM : Amconsul SURABAYA

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

March 8, 1962

REF : Condes 81, February 27, 1962

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION FE-4 REC'D 3-22	DEPT. IN RMIR-2 INK-5 AID-11 F OTHER CIA-10 USIA-8
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SUBJECT: Press/Information Party For USIS Branch PAO at Principal Officer's House
Well Attended, Ten Days After February 16 Demonstrations.

JOINT STATE USIA MESSAGE

SUMMARY

Press party as farewell for USIS Branch Public Affairs Officer at principal officer's house, ten days after February 16 demonstrations, is well attended by representatives of press, radio, and information services (civil and military). Good attendance attributed to (1) respect and friendship for Branch PAO, (2) curiosity to see damage to house by demonstrators, and (3) desire, on part of some, to be friendly without having to commit themselves in print. Local press and information people on the whole represent potential reservoir of good will but at present officially controlled.

As reported in the reference despatch, the February 16 attacks of violence against the USIS library, residence and car of reporting officer, and residences of 2 vice consuls and US-AID agricultural specialist were handled cautiously by the local press. It was fairly obvious that all newspapers were afraid to condemn the demonstrations and no editorials were forthcoming. Ten days later, Consulate officers had an opportunity to check still further press reactions at a farewell party given by the reporting officer for Mr. Fred A. Coffey, USIS Branch PAO, who is departing this week on home leave. (At the time of the party Mr. Coffey had orders for home leave and transfer, but these have now been changed so that he will return to Surabaya.) Principal guests at the party were drawn from press and information circles.

Invitations to the party on February 26 were hand carried, quite by accident the morning of the day the demonstrations occurred. They were extended to the top representatives (2 or 3) of the information services of both East Java and Surabaya, information services of the Military, the two news agencies (Antara and PIA), RRI (Radio Republic Indonesia), and all newspapers and journals except Communist-influenced Trompet Masjarakat. Response to the invitations was more than satisfactory.

cc: Amembassy DJAKARTA
USIS Djakarta

RSBlack:rem
REPORTER

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FROM Surabaya

considering the critical times (West New Guinea crisis). Six of the nine newspapers were well represented. Manifesto (unofficial spokesman for the GOI) was not; but their chief editor, who had accepted, sent a note to the Branch PAO expressing his regrets that he was required to go out of town unexpectedly and stating that he felt that "friendly ties" existed between him and Mr. Coffey. The director and deputy of RRI were on hand, as were officials from East Java Information Service and Surabaya Information Service. The guest list totaled 30.

The reporting officer believes that the satisfactory turn-out can be attributed to the following three factors: (1) respect and friendship for the Branch PAO, who has made friends with press and information people; (2) curiosity to see damage from the demonstrations at the reporting officer's house, where the party was held; and (3) opportunity for some to extend a friendly hand to representatives of the U.S. Government without having to print anything that might prove to be detrimental to them later with respect to their own Government.

As to number 3, almost half the guests, upon entering the house through a doorway flanked by doors with broken glass, made some mention of what many Indonesians seem to prefer to call the "accident" and expressed their regret. These same guests, however, had refused to inform their readers of what actually had happened, as reported in the reference despatch, apparently through fear of bucking national policy lines and statements by Foreign Minister SUBANDRIO and others attempting to justify the recent Embassy attack. This very same subject was touched upon by the Branch PAO the day of the party, when he called upon Editor THIO Oen Sik of Djawa Pos who, in justification of his not having printed the whole story, said quite frankly, "All editors in Surabaya are yellow, including myself".

The reporting officer did not wish to invite attention to the broken glass; that is, he did not want the guests to think that they were invited for the purpose of viewing it. However, the damage was unavoidably conspicuous, the Consulate having taken no action in re repairs awaiting guidance from the GOI via Embassy Jakarta.* On the terrace before dinner, where some of the guests had a full view of the broken glass in the French windows leading to the living room, a vice consul reported that Editor ISWOJO of Harian Umum, who is also chairman of Surabaya PWI (Indonesian Press Association), jokingly asked Major ACHJAT, Army Information Service, if he would permit him to take a picture of the broken windows. Other newspaper men joined in the friendly baiting and Major Achjat said, "Sure, sure, you can always try". Later, when the group got up to go in to eat, one of the editors spoke to a compatriot, who was talking to the Major, to come along. The compatriot replied, "I am in a discussion. What I am not permitted to print, at least I can discuss orally."

*NOTE: Embassy Jakarta has now advised the Consulate that the latter should obtain estimated cost of damage from a local firm that will be able to make the repairs and later to collect the money from the GOI. The Embassy will present estimated cost of damage to the Foreign Office.

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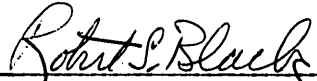
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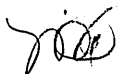
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FROM Surabaya

Conclusion:

The buffet supper pointed up the tangible success of the Branch PAO in making friends among press and information people. In a prepared speech after the dinner, the director of public relations, East Java Information Service, paid tribute to Mr. Coffey, for the good will that he has engendered. He mentioned specifically discussions with the Branch PAO on problems concerning "close cooperation between your country and ours". At the same time, the party revealed an underlying basic good will that exists toward the United States in general on the part of press/information people. Individual editors are "yellow", in a sense, since they will not go against their government; but, in fact, they believe that they cannot do so and keep their jobs. A friendly feeling is there, down underneath, and will show itself if and when the political climate is more favorable than now.


Robert S. Black
American Consul

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FE:SPA:RJThrasher:ym:3/13/62
(Drafting Office and Officer)

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

xR 897.2553

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DATE: March 12, 1962

SUBJECT: Courtesy Call by Mr. J. V. Pickering

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. J. V. Pickering, President of Esso Standard Eastern and a director of Standard-Vacuum Oil Company (Stanvac)
Mr. T. P. Nock, Executive Assistant for Far East, Stanvac
Mr. M. A. Mitchell, Stanvac representative in Washington
SPA - Mr. Bell
Mr. Jarvis
Mr. Thrasher

COPIES TO:

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Mr. Pickering was introduced as the head of the Far Eastern Division of Esso, i. e. Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, which hereafter will be operating Stanvac's holdings in Indonesia and Malaya. On November 14, 1960 Esso and Socony Mobil Oil Company, Inc., the joint owners of Standard-Vacuum Oil Company (Stanvac), entered into a consent decree to dissolve such joint ownership. Mr. Pickering said Stanvac has already sold its headquarters building at White Plains, N. Y., to I. B. M. In Malaya Esso will be the owning and operating company but a reorganization is under consideration that may offer 45 percent participation to Malayan capital. In Indonesia, Esso will be the operating company but will share ownership 50-50 with Socony in a locally registered company, P. T. Stanvac Indonesia. Responding to a question, he said he could not say definitely that the negotiations with the Government of Indonesia (GOI) are improving because conditions fluctuate so much from day-to-day it is hard to be sure where they stand.

Mr. Bell expressed the hope that agreement between the GOI and the companies can soon be reached, and remarked that if the West New Guinea issue could be settled the GOI would be able to take a better look at its program for economic development. He said if the Indonesians commence hostilities the issue in all likelihood will be brought before the Security Council of the United Nations, and in such event the United States would have to denounce the GOI as it did the Government of India at the time of the invasion of Goa. Were this to happen, a certain amount of anti-American resentment might be generated, and in anticipation the USG has been considering plans for evacuation of American women and children. He wondered whether oil company planes might be used. Mr. Pickering said the company has two or three DC-3's which could be used provided the Indonesians

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would permit. He gave the opinion that if the Indonesians are to invade they must do so in the near future, as weather conditions after March would be extremely unfavorable to any invasion attempt.

Mr. Pickering speculated whether President Sukarno intends to turn on British Borneo after achieving his objective in West New Guinea. Some people think that Sukarno, being unable to deal with domestic issues, must have an external issue to offer the Indonesians in order to stay in power. It has also been said that a possible Indonesian move against Borneo is one reason underlying the desire of Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman of Malaya to achieve a "greater Malaysia" embracing Malaya, Singapore and the North Borneos. Mr. Bell said that while such a move is a possibility, it seems unlikely. No hints or indications have been seen that the GOI contemplates moving on British Borneo, and indeed Foreign Minister Subandrio stated in the United Nations last fall that Indonesia has no designs on Borneo. If the GOI were looking for further fields after West New Guinea a more plausible spot would be Portuguese Timor, but even here no evidence has been found that the GOI has such plans.

Mr. Pickering noted that Indonesia is the normal source of oil supplies for Laos, Cambodia, Thailand and Viet Nam. One problem that his company may have to face is that an Indonesian offensive against New Guinea would tend to interfere with these normal supply channels.

Clearances:

SPA - Mr. Jarvis

- Mr. Bell

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XR-611.511

EDGAR W. HIESTAND
Elmer District, California

EDUCATION AND LABOR
HOUSE ADMINISTRATION
JOINT COMMITTEE ON
DEFENSE PRODUCTION

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

ACTION
is assigned to

FE

March 22, 1962

Honorable Dean Rusk
Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

No doubt, you have already set down on paper our policy in three fields. To respond to a constituent, may I have copies of your thinking:

- (1) In Korea where we have fifteen percent of our ground combat forces despite the the 20 first line and 10 reserve divisions of Koreans ready, what is our policy? Is our "Status of Forces" agreement still applying to our troops there, many of them against their will.
- (2) What is our policy in Indonesia? Are we turning our backs on our loyal ally, the Dutch, and helping the pro-Communist, Sukarno, in West New Guinea?
- (3) Our policy in Laos is somewhat unclear. Apparently we are supplying military aid to Vietnam but where are we in Laos?

With much much appreciation, I am

Cordially yours,

E. W. Hiestand
EDGAR W. HIESTAND
Member of Congress

EW:lw

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